

16th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, June 21 through Friday, June 22, 2012
Activity site	Otsuchi-cho, Kamihei-gun, Iwate
Participants	15 (10 men, 3 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



On the first day, we worked on clearing the weeds and litter from a graveyard inside a temple in the Suehiro-cho district of Otsuchi.

The temple had been unable to maintain the graveyard since the March 11 disaster. We joined around 120 other volunteers from various groups to clear the graves and the walkways in the graveyard of the weeds and litter with either a sickle or our bare hands.



Lunch was taken not far from where we were working, at a restaurant named “Oraga Otsuchi Fukko Shokudo (My Reconstructed Restaurant in Otsuchi).” After lunch, we went to a museum adjacent to the restaurant to look at pictures from right after the disaster and listen to a talk by the curator. We were all reminded of the devastation. Some in our group were even overcome by tears listening to the curator talk affirmatively about rebuilding the town.

On the second day, we went to Otsuchi Fishing Port in the Ando district to fill sandbags used as weights in fishing.

This was hard work that involved filling a sandbag with 40 kilograms or so of gravel, dispensed from a machine that looked like a silo. We then had to use rope to tie the sandbags closed and bundle 10 of these sandbags together. We worked at a fever pitch so as not to fall behind a young group of new recruits from another company who were there on a training program.